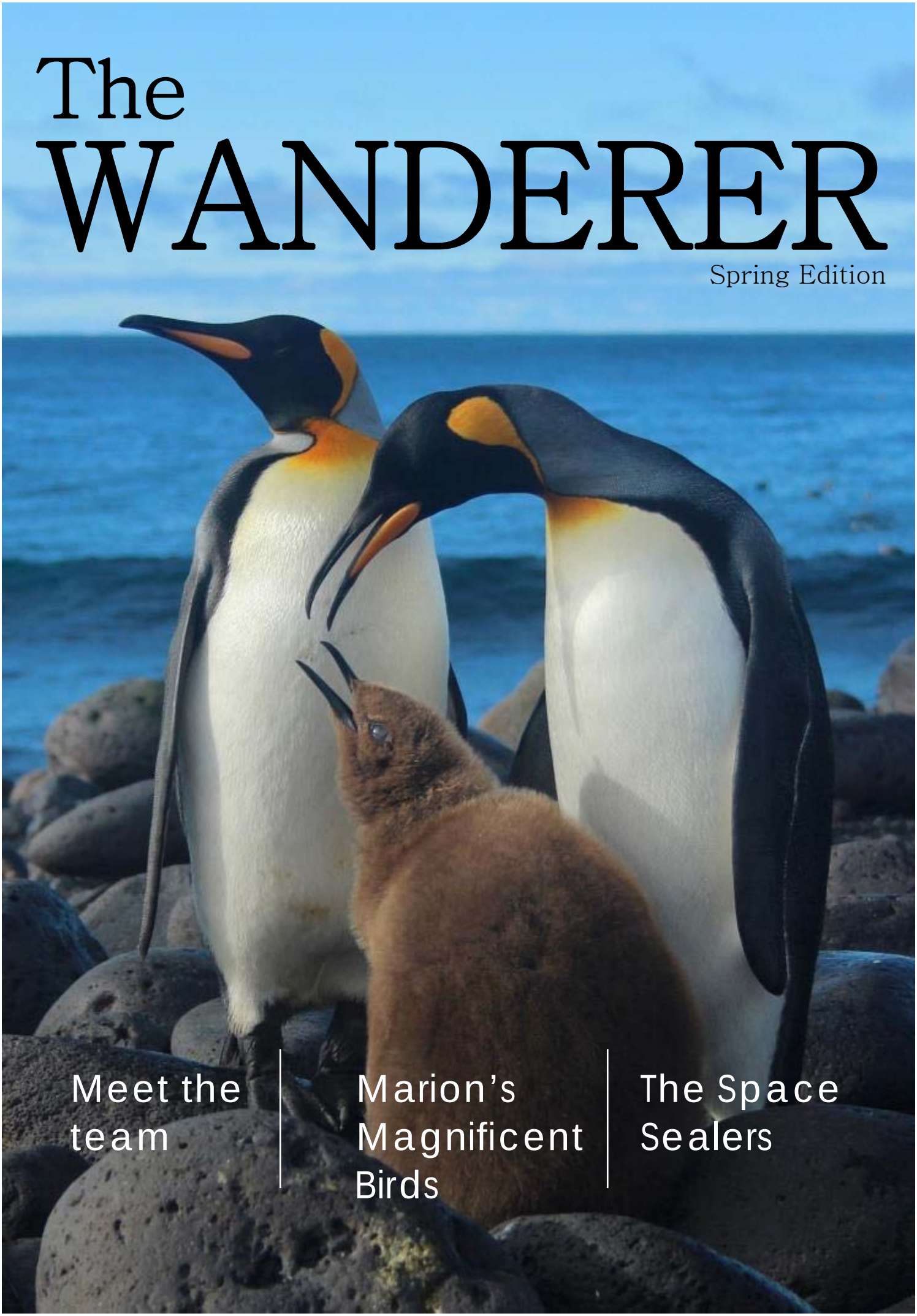
Issue 1 | September 2023

The WANDERER

Spring Edition



Meet the team

Marion's Magnificent Birds

The Space Sealers

Contents

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4 Editor's Note and Message from the Team Leader

6 Meet the Team

16 Marion's Magnificent Birds

22 Launching the Balloon
30 Sealer Stories
42 Alien Invasion

Watertunnel hut, where the ~~wind~~ fun never stops
Chris Jones

A note from the editors

Nthulani Ndaedzo, Nkateko Maholobela & Zafar Monier

Hello from the little swampy volcano in the Southern Indian Ocean we call home, or Marion Island. The year has kicked off and the overwinterers have settled into their routines, just in time for it all to change. The Spring Edition of The Wanderer marks the beginning of a massive influx of wildlife onto the island, eager to breed and moult on this isle of paradise. Follow on as the chaos descends for field researchers alike and the hustle continues at the Base at Cabbage Point.
- Zafar

We are privileged to be part of the M80 overwintering expedition to Marion Island and in this first edition of our island newsletter, the Marion Wanderer. We are excited to introduce ourselves and give a briefing of what we have been getting up to as well as the beauty of Island life in the past four months since our arrival. It has been nothing but a wonderful journey up to so far, filled with joy, challenges and lessons. Much more has happened in this time than we will be showing in the pages. The weather has been crazy, lots of snow, and wind I have never experienced . I love the snow part, what an experience of a lifetime.
-Nthulani

Hello! South Africa and the rest of the world, it is indeed a privilege from me as one of the editors of the Marion Island newsletter to share our experiences so far of the M80 overwintering team, we have had great events on the island, fun times, some nice and some not so nice weather days since our arrival in April, the days we'll remember most I guess . I hope you enjoy the stories and information shared on this newsletter. From me to you, nothing but love, do enjoy!

-Nkateko Benediction

Photograph by Dylan Seaton

From the Team Leader

Sandile Nkebe

I don't take being on Marion Island lightly, see it as a sacrifice I've made or a mere job opportunity. I see it is as a privilege, an adventure and a blessing. Although it forces one to sacrifice a lot of things, it certainly is a lifetime experience and an opportunity I don't regret taking. I could simply describe it as beating a lot of birds with one stone (slightly different to the common phrase of beating two birds with one stone).

Looking at the breathtaking landscapes, the glittering white mountain tops when covered with snow in this season of winter and an abundance of wildlife is always not only refreshing, but also revives and reminds me of the name of my favourite Spanish song. It's called "No hay lugar mas alto" and translates to "there is no place much higher". These landscapes and mountains also remind me that there is truly no place or nothing much higher than the One who created all. "How clearly the sky reveals God's glory! How plainly it shows what he has done!" Psalms 19 verse 1.

We are a team of 19 members. Despite the fact that we are people with different experiences, backgrounds, ethnicities, skin colours and religions; we are all well, getting to know each other and united each day. Our uniqueness is what makes us a team. We are also still getting to enjoy and know the island each day. Almost all of us have been out of the base so far, either on a day trip or a round island trip accompanying the field assistants with their research.

We have not let any important day go by uncelebrated so far. We started with Michelle's birthday party (a pyjama party) on the 22nd of May. This was soon after the SA Agulhas II left us on this remote island. More recently, we had a very busy week with celebrations (no regrets at all) starting on the 19th of June with World Albatross Day. On this day we got to learn about the different species of Albatross in the world. This was followed by Midwinter celebrations on the 21st of June and my birthday celebration (theme: "take me back home-khumbul'elekhaya") on the 23rd of June. We sometimes discuss amongst ourselves about how nice it feels and wish it could be someone's birthday forever. I can't leave out expressing my gratitude to all the special people who always organise and make those days special. We are looking forward to completing the remaining 10 months together as one team.

Photograph by Fezz Rataza

THE MARION80 TEAM
MEET THE ISLANDERS

Mbekezeli "Gumza" Gumede
Electrical engineering technician

kwaZulu Natal, kwaMaqedipleti, empangeni

Electrical maintenance tasks for the entire base

Hobbies: Playing and watching soccer

Marion island in few words: Marion island is a very unique environment where you have to live with few people in the base, I have learned a lot about seabirds. Walking around was the most challenging thing ever, but I enjoyed it.

Barwe Collen Nkadimeng
Diesel Mechanic

Limpopo: Ga-Sekhukhune (Manganeng)

Service and maintain the generators and do general maintenance around base.

Hobbies: Music, reading and cooking

Passion: Car engine modifications

Marion island in few words: Naturally beautiful and amazing

Sandile Nkebe
Medical orderly and Team Leader

Eastern Cape, Ngqeleni (Hluleka)

Responsible for the medical facilities on Marion, taking care of the team in case of medical emergencies and all other medical related issues and general wellbeing of the team

Hobbies: Reading and watching movies

Passions: To serve and explore the world

Marion island in few words: The place is naturally amazing, I have not seen so many penguins and seals in my life except on television.

Michelle Risi
NMU MAPRU Birder

kwaZulu Natal, Ballito

Carrying out long term monitoring of Albatrosses and surface nesting Petrels as well as assisting with study on Marion's avian scavenger guild**.**

Hobbies: Photography, baking and choreography

Passions: Seabird conservation and island restoration projects

Marion island in few words:
Majestically wonderful and wild, "if you allow it, Marion never ceases to amaze, simply walking allows it" a quote in the Greyheaded hut which is quite apt

Nthulani Ndaedzo
Assistant meteorological technician

Limpopo, Province, Louis Trichardt, Venda
(Kutama -Makhitha)

Conducting meteorological observations such as: observing and reporting on the cloud phenomena, significant weather conditions, launching the weather balloon, maintaining, calibrating and verifying all weather equipment at the station, conducting quality control of AWS data.

Passions: Water and the environment

Hobbies: Fishing, drinking, camping and road trips

Marion island in few words: Unpredictable, adventurous, Boggy, and tough, not a place for the weak!!!!

Melato Treasure Thobatse
Communications engineer

Free State, Ventersburg

Duties: Operating, maintenance, fault-finding and repairs of all communication services and equipment of Marion base including the satellite, radio, IT, GPS and telephone system.

Hobbies: Watching movies, reading and being around people

Marion island in few words: An experience of a lifetime.

Chris Jones

NMU MAPRU Birder

Durban

Conducting a research on several bird species, in particular the Avian scavenger guild on Marion. Long term monitoring of Albatrosses of Petrels for the Flitzpatrick institute of African Ornithogy

Hobbies: Hiking, surfing, scuba diving, photography, board games, reading and mastering the Finnish concept of Sisu

Passion: Wildlife and travelling islands

Marion island in few words: Marion island is in the roaring forties, it's a dynamic environment, anything can happen.

Kyle Maurer

Oceans and Coasts birder

Cape Town, Kommetjie

Long term monitoring of seabirds colonies with a focus on penguins. This includes sea birds breeding populations to determine size and success as well as understanding their movements and diet

Hobbies: Anything outdoor related. Surfing, hiking, camping, bird viewing and free diving

Passions Birds and birding have been part of my life for many years

Marion island in few words: A privilege that allows expansion and understanding of the island and in turn develop oneself.

Nkateko Benediction Maholobela
Senior Environmental Control Officer

Limpopo, Tzaneen (Bonn Village)

Ensuring compliance in the Island in terms of the Prince Edward Islands Management Plan, ensure proper disposal of waste in the Island as per the Prince Edward Island waste management handbook and controlling alien invasive species on the Island

Hobbies: Hiking and reading/ listening to books

Passions: Ocean Sciences (Chemical, physical, biological) and atmospheric science

Marion island in few words: My Island time has been long coming, with COVID-19 out of the way I finally decided to take the opportunity and tick on one of my long pending box

Dylan Seaton
MIMMP Sealer

Cape Town, South Africa

What Zafar said...

Passions: Wildlife conservation and minimalism.

Hobbies: Guitar, hiking, running, reading and GIS'ing. I've also taken a keen interest in photography since I've arrived on Marion.

Marion island in few words: Its beautiful but swassy out there.

Zafar Monier
MIMMP Sealer

Cape Town, Hout bay

Monitoring the marine mammals of Marion Island, mark-recapture of Southern Elephants Seals, device deployment on Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic fur seals

Hobbies: Bouldering, woodworking, beekeeping, mushing, avid naturalist

Passions: ~~Extreme adventure~~ rusks

Marion island in few words: Marion is fierce!

Kelebogile Morwa Mandi Mogotsi "Kelly"
Senior Meteorological Technician and Deputy Team Leader

Mafikeng, North West

Oversee and coordinate surface meteorological and atmospheric research assigned by SAWS. Shift management of the two assistant meteorological technicians. Perform surface meteorological observations, conduct upper air balloon releases, maintain and verify all equipment at the remote station. Conduct quality control of data, report writing and asset control.

Hobbies: Traveling, Cooking, and Listening to music!

Passions: The Environment, Learning new skills and Helping others

Marion Island in a few words: What a wonder!

Fezz Rataza
Sansa Space Weather Engineer

Ensure that the SANSA Space Science Space Weather Projects runs optimally without interruption. Daily checking that all equipment and systems are functioning and that the system data is recording correctly. Regular inspection of antennas, sensors, cables, loggers and exposed equipment, especially after severe storms. Field maintenance to address any issues with the equipment such as fault finding, running diagnostic software, repair and investigating sources of noise or anomalous data. I'm also responsible for system development work and system upgrades at Marion Island.

Kuhle Mbalane
Assistant Environmental Control Officer

Eastern Cape, Mthatha

Implementing the Prince Edward Island Management Plan. Assist with alien species eradication plan and ensuring compliance to environmental authorisations/ records of decisions under the EIA regulations for the Prince Edward Islands

What led you to Marion Island: I wanted to experience this special protected island and be part of a few individuals to have lived and worked in this place with such rich biodiversity.

Marion in a few words: A very beautiful but dangerous island that serves as an important research place, thanks to its geographic location.

Nikita Fikizolo
Base Chef

Eastern Cape, Berlin

Plan daily menu for the team including dietary requirements. Manage the food store inventory. Maintain standard for good storage, rotation, quality and appearance. Ensure compliance with applicable health codes and regulations

Hobbies: Travelling, cooking and listening to music

Passions: Food and adventure

Marion Island in a few words: Always a pleasure to see killers in the bay and shocking to see a bird strike in the wee hours of the morning

Odwa Obose
Assistant meteorological technician

Eastern Cape, Engcobo

Assistant Metkassie under SAWS. The position entails various fun and exciting aspects such as doing weather observations, releasing a weather balloon, maintenance of equipment etc.

Passions: My biggest highlight in my past experience was getting an opportunity to work as a Field Assistant Botanist as part of the Marion 74 team. I am also expanding my knowledge ion the field of Meteorology at Marion Island which is a challenging yet exciting field. I feel like I have a certain connection with the island itself so overwintering for a second time is something I had to do.

Camilla Smyth
MFM Mouser
Cape Town

Preparation for the upcoming Mouse Eradication, my duties include baseline ecological monitoring, Bait trials and weather monitoring.

Hobbies: Anything that involves the great outdoors, two of my favourites include trail running and early morning swims in the sea

Passions: I fell in love with Antarctica when I went to the SANAEI IV for takeover and I have wanted to overwinter at one of the SANAP bases ever since. I'm passionate about conservation and love adventure so being a field researcher for the Mouse-Free Marion project is a dream come true because it combines both

Marion Island in a few words: Pristine, wild and windy

Mpumelelo "X-avier Praise-God" Mabutyana
Oceans and Coasts birder
Mount Frere Eastern Cape but grew up in Port Shepstone (KwaZulu-Natal)

Seabird data collection and patrolling unit on Marion Island coastline

Hobbies: Travelling in and out south African provinces

Passions: The big 5, venomous snakes and seabirds, .

Marion island in few words: It's not a place for the weak, if you love adventure this is a perfect place to come and be paid for getting adventurous.

Tammy Eggeling

MIMMP Killerwhaler/Sealer

Cape Town, Simon's Town

Monitoring, tracking device deployment and biopsy sampling of the Killer whale population around the island, as well as forming part of the team that conducts research on the three resident seal species.

Passions: Travel, wildlife conservation and rehabilitation.

Hobbies: All things mountain and water related, DIY projects, photography.

Marion Island in a few words: A place that is constantly increasing my awe for the natural world while pushing me to dig deeper than I ever thought

Marion's Magnificent Birds

Marion is teeming with birdlife waiting to be monitored, our rag tag team of birders are on the case, this is their story

photograph by Dylan Seaton | Aptenodytes patagonicus

The Wandering Albatross

Michelle Risi & Chris Jones

We are lucky to be spending a second expedition on Marion Island, with one of our core responsibilities overseeing the long-term monitoring of Wandering Albatrosses, Grey-headed Albatrosses, and Northern Giant Petrels. Essentially what this work entails is following all nests within a designated area. In these areas most breeding adults have unique numbered metal rings on their legs, so we know their history. If an unringed bird decides to breed within the colony we place a metal ring on their leg and add them to the breeding database.

We record who the partners are of each nest and follow their nest from the time the egg is laid up until the nest fails or until the chick fledges. If the chick successfully fledges, we place a unique numbered ring on its leg before it takes its first flight and 'fledges' the nest. Therefore, when it

A Wandering Albatross chick with Bootrock seen in the background

Chris Jones

eventually returns to breed, up to 10 years later, we know its history (age, parents, nest site, etc.). The monitoring colonies have been studied for close to 40 years for some species that we work with, so a lot of the nests that we monitor now are adults that were ringed as chicks.

Seabirds have a strong nest site fidelity which means they often return to the same area to breed that they themselves were hatched in. Apart from the more

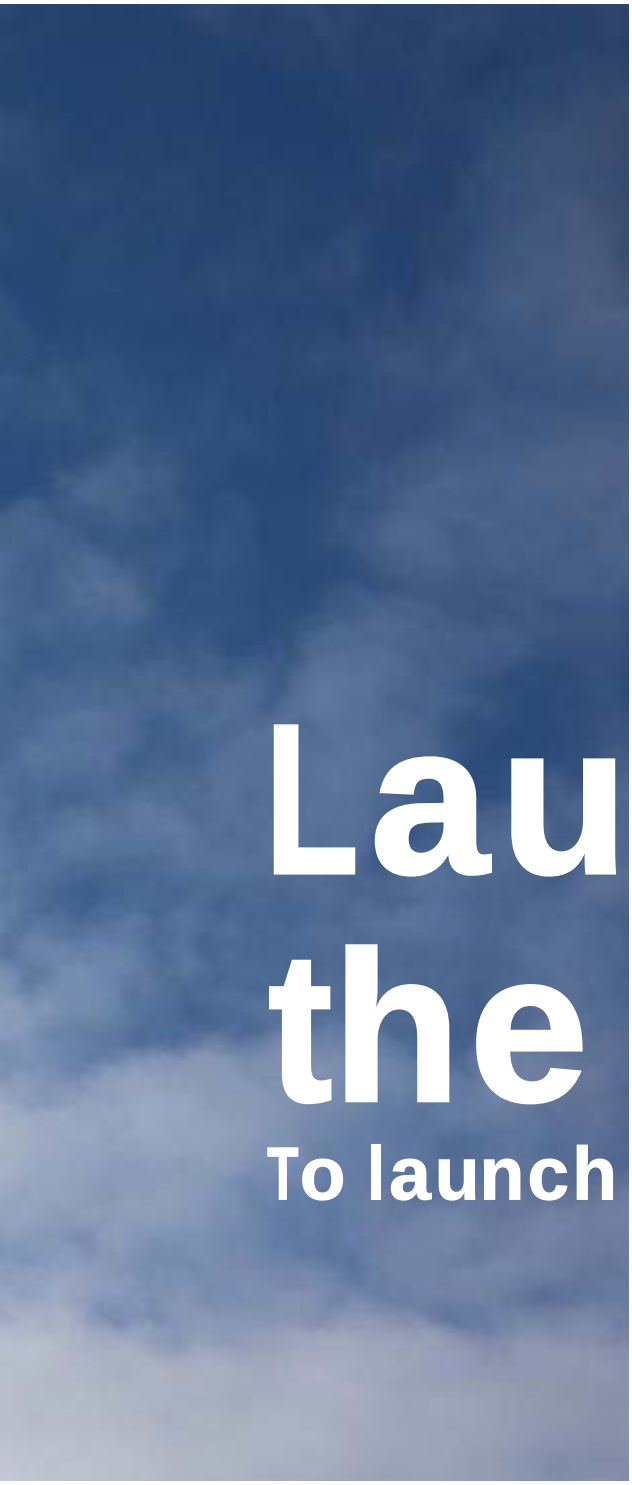
Intensive monitoring we also do whole island counts of some species and record signs of mouse predation on seabirds. We made the sad discovery during our takeover round island hike of eight dead wandering albatross adults in a localized area near Cape Davis. All evidence points to mice being the culprits. Tracking the impact of mice activity is very important as we lead up to the planned eradication of house mice (for more information see *mousefreemarion.org*). We have another major component of work on the avian scavengers on Marion which we will report on in a future

Birders have to be careful when handling albatross chicks as their natural defense is to projectile vomit

Chris Jones

Marion Island is home to 40% of the world's Wandering Albatross population

Zafar Monier | Diomedea exulans



Launching the Balloon

To launch or Not to launch

Ideally balloon flights last for 1hour 30mins to 2hours and rise up to over 25km - 30 km in the atmosphere.

BY (LEFT TO RIGHT) **NTHULANI NDAEDZO, KELLY MOGOTSI, ODWA OBOSE**
PHOTOGRAPHS BY **FEZZ RATAZA**

Oh Yes! We have it! M80 has the opportunity to conduct upper air ascents on our expedition twice a day, everyday of the year. Weather balloons are released simultaneously from different locations worldwide! On Marion Island we release the balloon at 12H00Z and 00H00Z (15H00 and 03H00 Marion local time).

The weather balloons are made of latex or synthetic neoprene which are filled with hydrogen gas. An instrument called a radiosonde is then attached to the balloon to measure: pressure, temperature and relative humidity as it ascends up into the atmosphere. These instruments often endure temperatures as cold as -95 degrees Celsius, relative humidity from 0% - 100%, air pressure only a few thousandths of what is found on the Earths surface.

A transmitter on the radiosonde sends the data back to tracking equipment on the ground every one to two seconds. By tracking the position of the radiosonde, we can also calculate wind speed and wind direction. Each radiosonde contains a mailing bag and instructions on what to do if you find one.

Weather balloons are the primary source of data above the ground and provide valuable input for computer forecast models, local data for meteorologists to make forecasts and predict storms and data for research. Without this information, accurate forecasts beyond a few hours would be almost impossible.

The experience on launching the weather balloon on Marion Island has been amazing! Some days we have showers of rain, snow, strong wind gust and yes it's shocking we also have quiet calmer days.

It's challenging with the strong wind speed and direction at times to launch the balloon because we'd have to figure out which door to exit for a successful launch. When the winds are strong the balloon leads you and at that time the Metkassie won't be ready to release; you've got to have that *snappy wit*! If the wind gust is too much this may lead to the balloon bursting early or may be entangled in the rocks nearby, however with good timing we've almost had 100% successful balloon launches.

Launching the balloon is always an exciting thing to do as a Metkassie, so to share the excitement when we have birthdays we invite the Teammate whose birthday it is and the whole Team to come and write on the balloon, take pictures and videos just to create beautiful memories and whoever's birthday it is, the Metkassie on duty will guide and assist the Teammate to release the balloon safely for a successful launch.

LAUNCHING THE BALLOON

1

We take care to ensure safety standards when filling the balloon. Unlike helium, hydrogen is flammable

3

The balloon is now ready to be launched, it is carefully transported outside and prepared for swift launch

2

The balloon is tied off and the radiosonde must be securely attached to the balloon

4

Clear skies make for an easy launch, the balloon is released clear of any obstacles. Good luck out there!

South African Weather Services Data

MAY

TEMPERATURE	MIN	-1.1°C
	MAX	12.8°C
RAIN	DAYS WITH RAIN	28 DAYS
	MAX IN 24HOURS	42.4mm
	TOTAL	196.2mm
WIND	MAX	60.75 km/h
SUNSHINE	TOTAL	68.1 hrs

JUNE

TEMPERATURE	MIN	**3.0°C**
	MAX	**12.0°C**
RAIN	DAYS WITH RAIN	**23 DAYS**
	MAX IN 24HOURS	**84.8mm**
	TOTAL	**210mm**
WIND	MAX	**174.96 km/h**
SUNSHINE	TOTAL	**54.9 hrs**

JULY

TEMPERATURE	MIN	**-0.2°C**
	MAX	**11.2°C**
RAIN	DAYS WITH RAIN	**28 DAYS**
	MAX IN 24HOURS	**43.0mm**
	TOTAL	**210.0mm**
WIND	MAX	**157.6km/h**
SUNSHINE	TOTAL	**19.0.0 hrs**

AUGUST

TEMPERATURE	MIN	-0.7°C
	MAX	13.6°C
RAIN	DAYS WITH RAIN	18 DAYS
	MAX IN 24HOURS	1.9mm
	TOTAL	13.3mm
WIND	MAX	117.0 km/h
SUNSHINE	TOTAL	89. 0 hrs

Above are the Marion Island Climate Statistics for May- August.

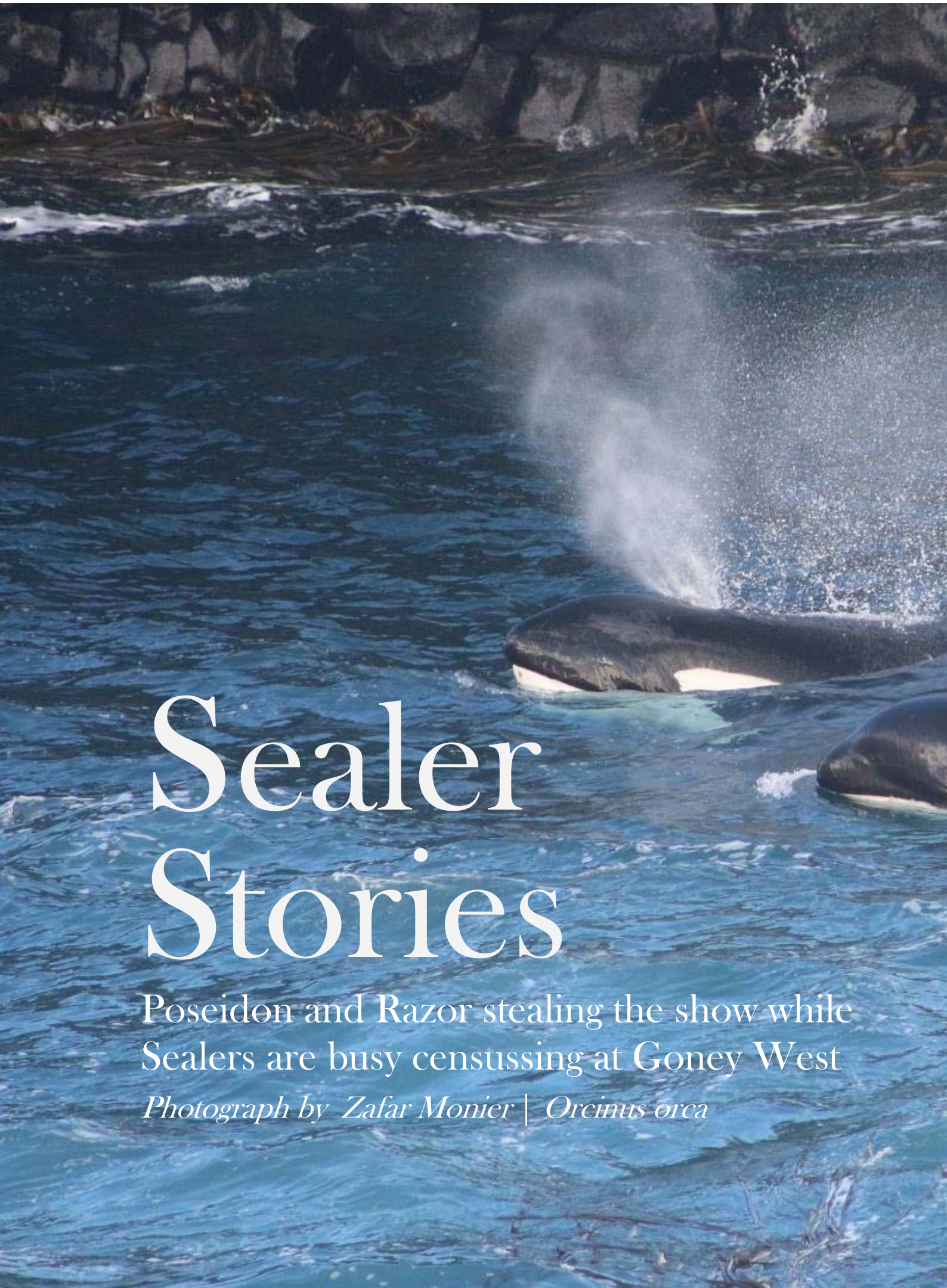
May was the lowest recorded minimum temperature at -1.1°C and August had the maximum temperature of 13.6°C.

The highest recorded rainfall was in June with 84.4mm precipitation.

We just changed seasons from Winter to spring and we're having more sunlight.

The highest hours of sunshine we recorded was 89.9 hours in August, and we look forward to having more sunlight as we have already transitioned into our Equinox period.

Photograph by Chris Jones



Sealer Stories

Poseidon and Razor stealing the show while Sealers are busy censussing at Goney West

Photograph by Zafar Monier | Orcinus orca

The Sealers are always on the lookout for 'part-time sealers' for seasonal duties where plenty of manpower is greatly appreciated.

Smiles on tired faces is the best happiness you'll ever see. Kyle, Fezz and Dylan heading out of Repettos hut

Zafar Monier

The Space Sealers

Zafar Monier

It was that time again, our monthly round island had arrived and the sealers were huddled in the office dressed in PJ's discussing how the next week would precipitate. Planning's an arduous task, I stepped out for a hot Milo only to realise the science block was out of milk. On the way to the dining hall I passed by our nocturnal SANSA engineer, Fezz, foraging around the kitchen. Milk in hand I began to head back when he stopped me, right there he decided he would be ready to accompany for the whole round island. The sealers were doubtful at first, but our doubts were shattered when the next morning Mr Fezz was packed and ready for the Roundie. None of us knew what we were in for.

Our first destination was the Cape Davis hut via the north beaches, as the next day was our monthly scheduled pup weigh. Kyle Maurer the Birder joined us for this leg of the trip, we need all the help we can get

with those pups. Slow going through the King Penguin filled beaches, our space engineer started showing signs of fatigue. We stopped for coffee at Goney Bay when Dylan shouted “Killers!” they were spotted in the distance. Everyone was at attention, Killer Whales demand that from you and you are quick to comply. As I turn I see them shooting directly into the bay. Before I could even come to terms with what I seeing they were meters off the beach inspecting the shore.

What followed was perhaps the best opportunistic Killer sighting in the field yet; we were at close quarters with Poseidon, Razor and her calf Nimrod as they circled the bay for 15 minutes, spraying seawater into the air and showing off in the waves. And like that we had kicked off the most challenging and memorable Sealer round island, Fez made it through without hesitation or hold-ups, what a champ!

There's a First For Everything

by Zafar Monier

Many a sealer can sympathise with the feeling of being tossed in the deep end. There's very little that can prepare you for what a year of MIMMP'ing has in store. The M80 sealers learnt this on our first post take-over round island. Although the M79 sealers trained us exceptionally well we still reeked of newbies, and the seals could tell.

Fatally underprepared, slogging heavy packs and cumbersome gear through harsh conditions and terrain straight out of the nightmares of Dr Seuss. Our mainland mind sets couldn't comprehend that this would be our life for the rest of the year. Despite the superficial hardships, the days were filled with laughter and there was always time for shenanigans between work. Our sore knees were compensated by the immeasurable excitement of finally being here. Left to navigate our way both literally around the island as well as the navigating the immense responsibility of carrying the sealer title.

Familiarising ourselves with the beaches, catching 100 pups at Cape Davis, tagging fur seals moms and pups at Mixed Pickle and then there were still the Ellies. We were desperately trying to summon the memories of the advice our predecessors relayed to us. Sealer training is more a warning than training, the words of M79 sealer Mike Ross became very clear to me 'We can't possibly teach you everything now, so you'll have to figure most of it out.' On Marion you learn to learn quick!

A botanist, a hydrologist and a mammologist get stuck on an island, none of them know what they're in for. All they know is by the time they leave they'll carry the name Sealers.

Dylan and Tammy (above) in their navigating pose, a common sight. Dylan attempting to maintain professional composure with WW(2)142 (below).

by Dylan Seaton

Ode to the Scatman

To walk across Marion is a wonder to behold

With stories of adventure and danger foretold

But to some there's a calling unlike any other

Where one must endure scent of a plunder

With a stench so fowl

And a texture somewhat vile

He bites his lip and swallows his bile

Come wind or rain or sleet or snow

You'll witness him crawling across the coastal plateau

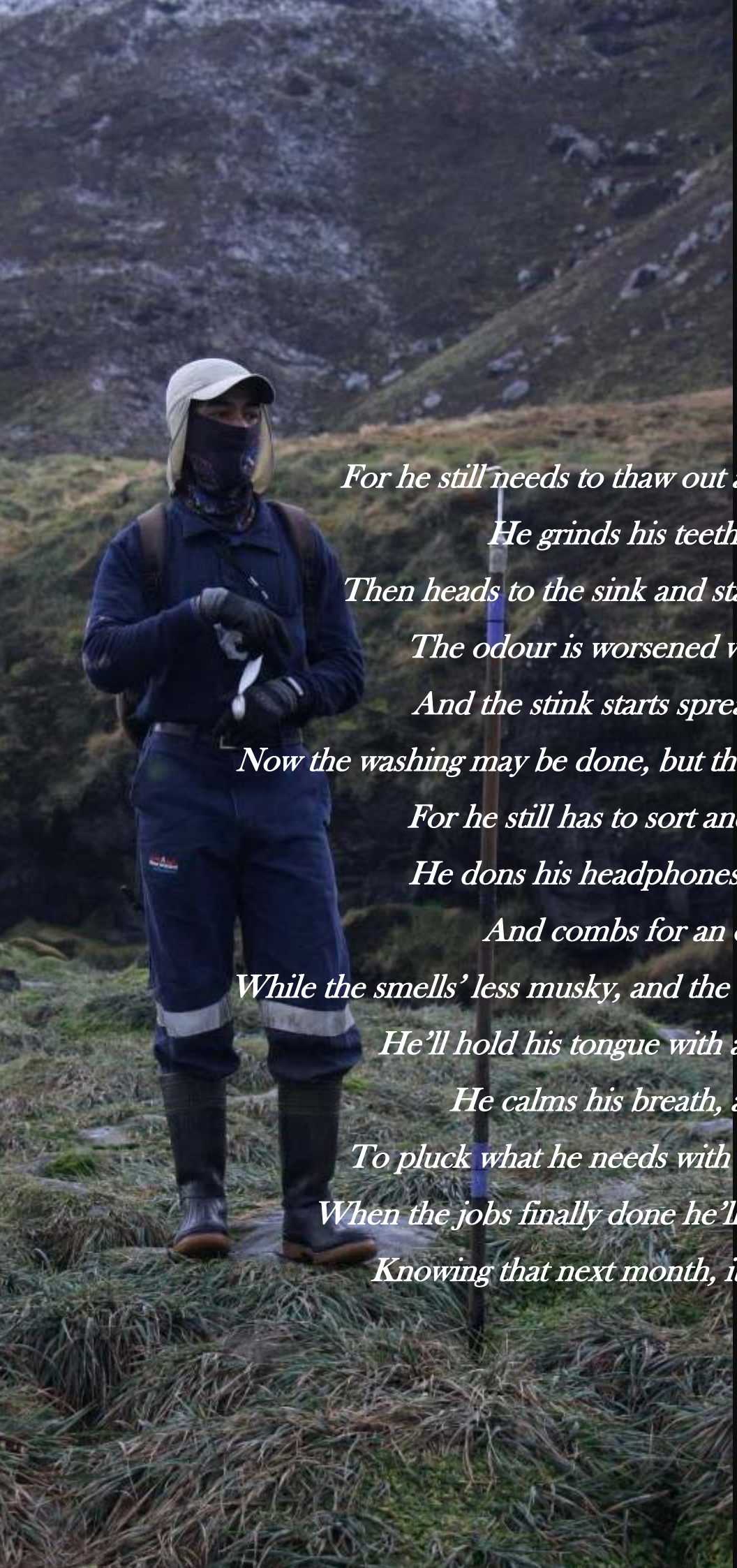
You'll hear a cheer followed by a sigh

Finding only a pebble that's deceived his eye

After hours of searching and wondering the plains

He hold up his prize, a tiny scat with praise

The day may be done, but the jobs not yet through



For he still needs to thaw out and wash all that poo
He grinds his teeth, and dons his gloves
Then heads to the sink and starts sieving the dungs
The odour is worsened with each scat washed
And the stink starts spreading with each slosh
Now the washing may be done, but the job not yet through
For he still has to sort and sample all that poo
He dons his headphones and gets in the zone
And combs for an otolith, beak or bone
While the smells' less musky, and the sorting's rather dusty
He'll hold his tongue with an attitude quite lusty
He calms his breath, and steady's his hand
To pluck what he needs with a technique so grand
When the jobs finally done he'll ponder with disdain
Knowing that next month, it'll start all over again

Macronectes halli — Chris Jones

Marion is nature

Mirounga leonina — Zafar Monier

Chionus minor marionense — Zafar Monier

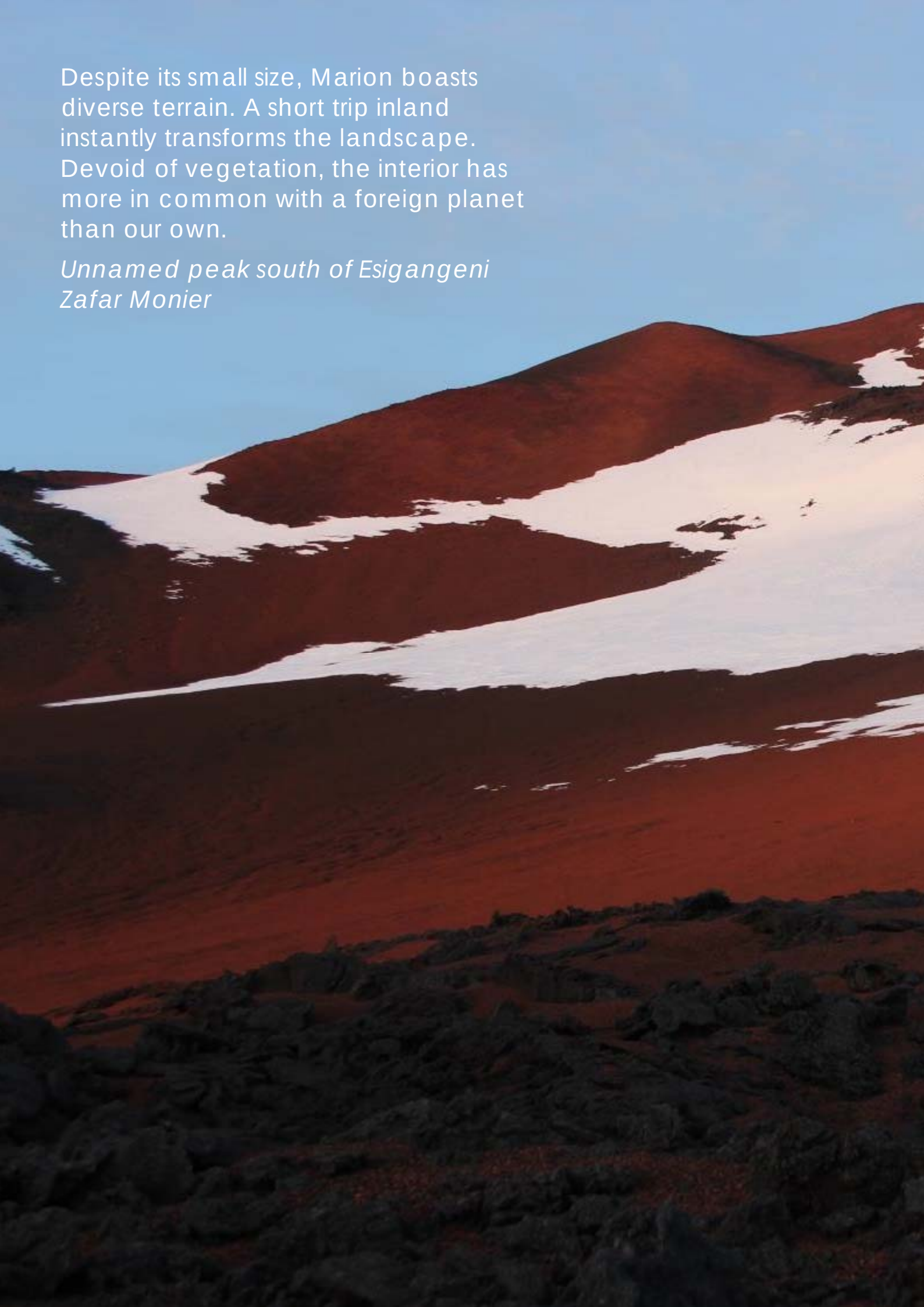
For those privileged enough to work on Marion, it doesn't take long to notice her vitality, A Giant Petrel nests at the aptly named Bread Loaf rock. A Paddy picks a carcass clean littering the beaches with bones. Ellies are cautious when sealers are near, they stand their ground in the surf. A Gazella bull at full guard

at it's most fierce }

Arctocephalus gazella — Dylan Seaton

Despite its small size, Marion boasts diverse terrain. A short trip inland instantly transforms the landscape. Devoid of vegetation, the interior has more in common with a foreign planet than our own.

Unnamed peak south of Esigangeni
Zafar Monier



Alien

Nkateko Benediction Maholobela

Marion Island is the bigger of the two Prince Edward Islands, located in the Sub-Antarctic region. Sub-Antarctic Islands are some of the least impacted land habitats due to their geographical Isolation, however they are not immune to invasions of alien species. Marion Island is one of the most important centers of environmental conservation and research, not only for South Africa but also the global science community. Through historical expeditions alien invasive species have been introduced to the Island. Currently the Island has seven active alien invasive sites being monitored and controlled, consisting of five different alien species around the Island. The invasive species consists of mainly grasses.

Figure 1. below Shows how the alien species are introduced in the Island, from stage a-c (introduction-spreading), where one or multiple people can get off a ship with seeds of an alien species on their gear or bag, the seed then gets deposited onto the Island where it will start to grow, and spread. To minimize the chances of introducing alien invasive species through this method, the Environmental Control Officers (ECOs) conduct a boot washing and gear check ceremony during every annual relief voyage on the SA Agulhas II, prior to arrival to the Island, to clean off any seeds which may be on the shoes, or on any of the outer wear gear.

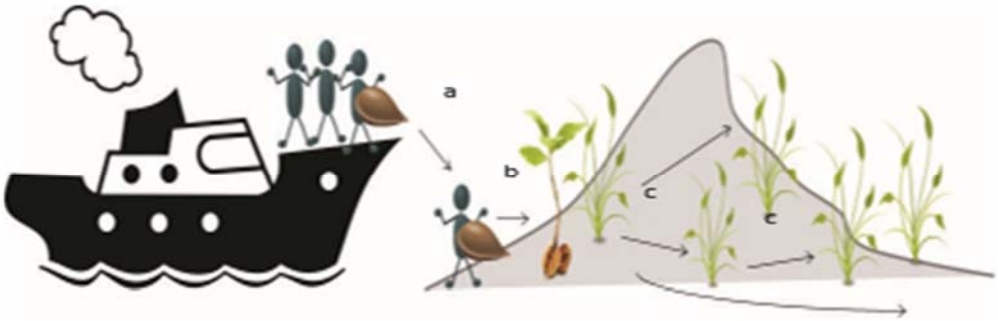


Figure 1: Illustration of the different stages of introduction and spreading of alien invasive vegetation on the Island (Blackburn *et al*. 2011)

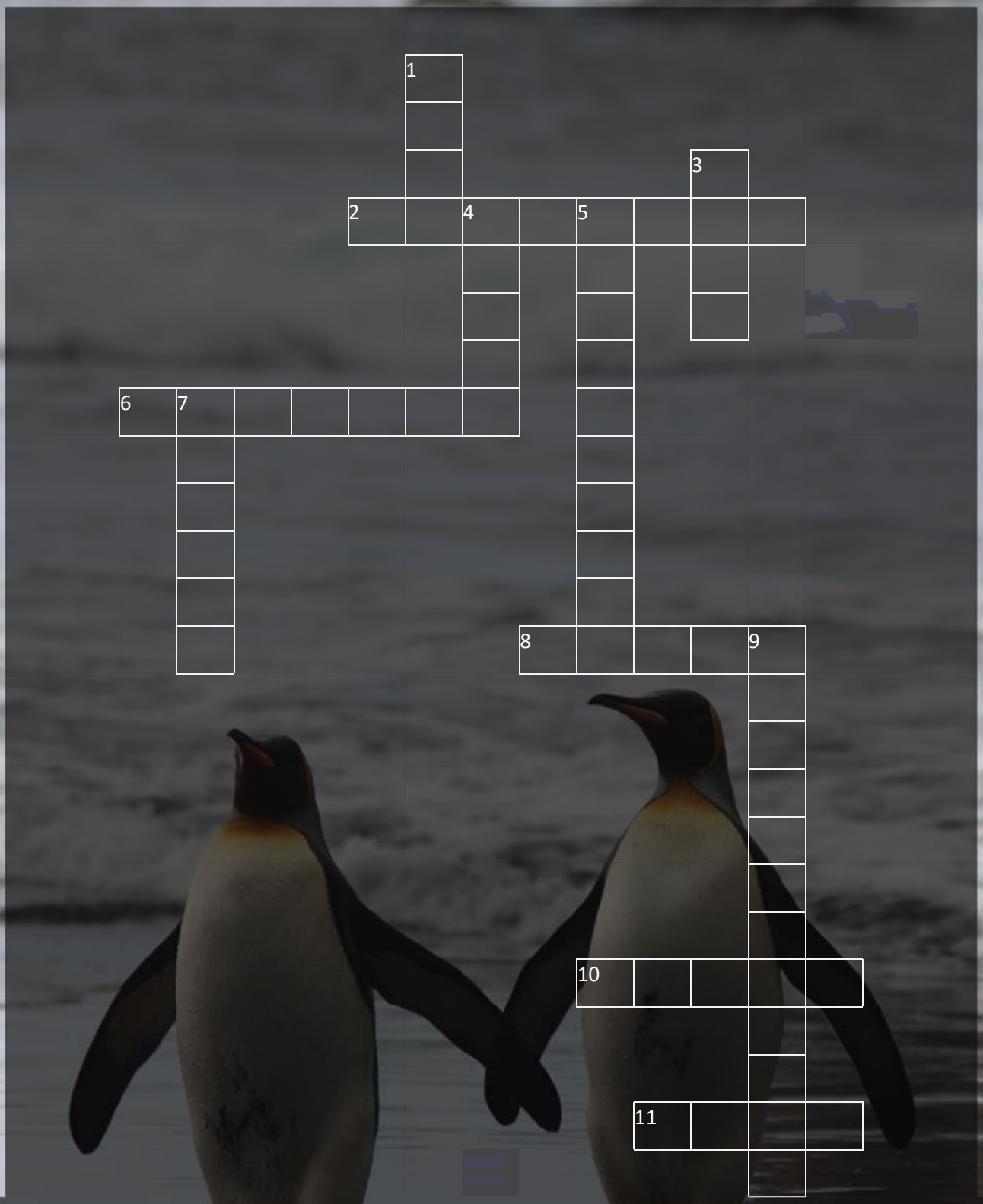
Invasion

Credit: Daisy Kotsedi

To control the already existing and active sites on the Island, the ECOs conduct monthly inspections and monitoring of all the alien sites on the Island. To control the active sites herbicide is applied on the alien vegetation species, while being extra careful not to apply the herbicide on other non-targeted native species of the Island.

WB(2)545 aka Bliksem, Kildalkey Bay Beachmaster. A bull with deadly size and a ferocious attitude

Dylan Seaton



1 An Elephant Seals main predator
2 Marion's Highest Peak
3 Strength of will in the face of adversity, currently being mastered by Chris Jones
4 The sensation when entering a hut dry room (hint: **SW**amp **ASS**)
5 Marion's neighbouring continent to the south
6 SA _____ II ; The Red Taxi
7 Marion's least abundant penguin species (the best one too)
8 The program that manages all South Africa's Antarctic bases
9 Marion's neighbouring island
10 The colloquial name for the Lesser Sheathbill, Marion's Mischievous Mascot
11 An islanders greatest fear. A sinking hazard common in the field, rhymes with fire

Photograph by Tammy Eggeling